

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough examination of the claims as evidenced in the Office Action dated January 19, 2005. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections to the claims contained therein.

Claims 1, 8, and 13-15 have been amended. Claims 5, 6, 12 and 18 have been cancelled. Claims 1-4, 7-11, 13-17, and 19-20 are currently pending in this application.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 7-11, 13-17 and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0128427 to Kalmanash et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,777,789 to Chiu et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,059,917 to Stephens et al. Claim 5 has been canceled, thereby rendering moot the rejection thereto. With respect to the remaining claims, applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 5 and 6, which the Examiner indicated would be allowable if written in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 is therefore allowable. Claims 2-4 and 7 depend from allowable claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons claim 1 is allowable.


Claim 8 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 12, which the Examiner indicated would be allowable if written in independent form including all limitations of the base claim. Claim 8 is therefore allowable. Claims 9-11 and 13-14 depend from allowable claim 8 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons claim 8 is allowable.

Claim 15 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 18, which the Examiner indicated would be allowable if written in independent form including all limitations of the base claim. Claim 15 is therefore allowable. Claims 16-17 and 19-20 depend from allowable claim 15 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons claim 15 is allowable.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating claims 6, 12 and 18 contain allowable subject matter. Applicants believe the incorporation of the subject matter of these claims into their respective independent claims renders moot the Examiner's objections thereto.

Accordingly, with entry of the amendments and consideration of the arguments and remarks contained herein, all pending claims are now allowable, and a notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if further issues remain in the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully Submitted,


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